

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

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O R 190805Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4299

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH-MOZAMBIQUE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1. GEORGE VENIZEAU, FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA, PAID A
COURTESY CALL ON CHARGE ON MORNING OF FEB 18. VENIZEAU SAID
THAT HE HAD BEEN IN MAPUTO APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK AND THAT
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HE HAD COME DOWN FROM DAR ES SALAAM SPECIFICALLY TO ESTABLISH

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND GPRM. HAVING ACCOMPLISHED THIS ON FEB 16, WHEN HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO INITIALLED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, HE SAID HE WAS NOW MAKING INFORMAL COURTESY CALLS ON ALL CHIEFS OF MISSIONS OF FRIENDLY WESTERN STATES. WHEN CHARGE REMARKED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY FORMAL OR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW FRENCH-GPRM DIPLOMATIC LINKS, VENIZEAU RESPONDED THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS ON FEB 19.

2. VENIZEAU SAID THAT RELATIONS WOULD BE AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, AND THAT HE HAD ALREADY REQUESTED AGREEMENT FOR ONE OF HIS "COLLEAGUES." WHILE NOT DISCLOSING THE NAME OF THE PROPOSED AMBASSADOR, VENIZEAU SAID HE IS A CAREER DIPLOMAT, 41 YEARS OLD AND A GRADUATE OF FRANCE'S PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION.

3. VENIZEAU EXPLAINED THE FRENCH PLAN TO HAVE (FOR THEM) A FAIRLY LARGE EMBASSY IN MAPUTO. IT WILL INCLUDE THREE OTHER DIPLOMATS IN ADDITION TO THE AMBASSADOR. A CONSULAR OFFICER WILL OPEN THE EMBASSY DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN MARCH.

4. WHEN THE CHARGE ASKED WHETHER THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO PROVIDE THE GPRM WITH ANY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, VENIZEAU SAID THAT THE FRENCH OFFERED TO SEND A SMALL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TEAM TO MOZAMBIQUE TO SURVEY THE COUNTRY'S NEEDS, AND THEN TO OFFER ECONOMIC AID AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BASED ON WHAT TEAM AND GPRM RECOMMENDED. VENIZEAU SAID THAT WHEN HE SPOKE TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTER MARCELINO DOS SANTOS ABOUT THIS, THEY EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN THE AID, BUT NEITHER SEEMED PREPARED TO ACCEPT OR APPROVE AN IMMEDIATE VISIT BY A FRENCH ASSISTANCE TEAM. DOS SANTOS TOLD HIM THE GPRM WAS STILL FORMULATING ITS FIRST FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND DID NOT WANT TO ACCEPT ANY MAJOR AID COMMITMENTS UNTIL IT WAS COMPLETED. THE QUESTION OF AID HAS BEEN LEFT UP IN THE AIR AND THE NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT. HAVING HEARD STORIES IN DAR THAT MOZAMBIQUE'S ECONOMY WAS STARTING TO WASTE AWAY, VENIZEAU SAID HE WAS FRANKLY SURPRISED THAT GPRM OFFICIALS DID NOT SEEM OVERLY ANXIOUS TO GET FRENCH AID ROLLING. CHARGE INFORMED VENIZEAU THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER POTENTIAL AID DONORS HAD HAD SIMILAR EXPERIENCES AND THAT GPRM SEEMS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE MOVING CAUTIOUSLY IN AID AREA.

5. BEFORE DEPARTING, VENIZEAU EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT NOW THAT FRENCH HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO OPEN MISSION IN MAPUTO, GPRM WOULD CURB SOME OF ITS STRONG ANTI-FRENCH PROPAGANDA ON SUCH ISSUES AS DJIBOUTI AND MAYOTTE. HE FELT THAT DURING HIS SHORT STAY, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY PRESS AND RADIO MEDIA MORE THAN ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT EXCEPT SOUTH AFRICA.

CHARGE SAID HE TOO HOPED THAT THIS SITUATION WOULD CHANGE,
BUT WARNED THAT THIS MIGHT BE WISHFUL THINKING SINCE GPRM
HAS TAKEN A VERY CLEAR POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO CONTINUED
PRESENCE OF "COLONIAL" POWERS IN AFRICA.
CARSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, GOODWILL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MAPUTO000159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760062-0268
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760235/aaaabekv.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH-MOZAMBIQUE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MZ, FR, (VENIZEAU, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006